
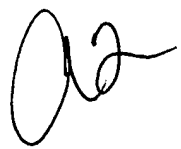


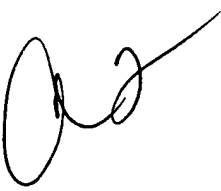
IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 2, lines 1-5:

 This is a continuation-in-part application of application No. 10/010,300 filed on December 5, 2001, for a METHOD, SOFTWARE PRODUCT, SYSTEM AND APPARATUS FOR MANAGING MULTIPLE CHANNELS OF TRAVEL SERVICES and listing Vajid Husain Jafri, Christopher John Hanson, Vipin Kumar and Sajid Husain Jafri as joint inventors and assigned of record to the assignee of record of this application.

IN THE CLAIMS:


-  1. A method of presenting offers of travel services comprising:
- a. providing a client computer having a human interface;
 - b. inputting via the human interface, a request for details of travel services, the request being in a format intelligible to a global distribution center (GDS);
 - c. sending a first copy of the request to the GDS;
 - d. sending, through the Internet, a second copy of the request to a server computer;
 - e. receiving, from the GDS, a first details of travel services;
 - f. receiving, via the Internet, from the server computer a second details of travel services, the second details of travel services having been received



by the server computer in response to a supplier request, from the server computer to a supplier, wherein the supplier request is composed responsive to a data content of the request for services; and

- g. outputting, via the human interface, a representation of the first and the second details of travel services.

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26. A method of providing at a processing station an indication of a minimal price for a transaction, including the steps of:

providing prices for the transaction at the processing station from a plurality of first sources offering established and published prices for the transaction,

10 providing for the transmission of the published prices from the first sources to the processing station through a wide area network,

providing from the first sources prices discounted for the transactions from the published prices from the first sources,

15 providing for the transmission of the discounted prices from the first sources to the processing station through the network, and

displaying the published prices from the first source and the discounted prices from the first source simultaneously on a display screen at the processing station.

27. A method as set forth in claim 26 wherein
the published prices for the transactions are provided with a first protocol and
wherein
the discounted prices for the transactions are provided with a second protocol
5 different from the first protocol and wherein
the first and second protocols are made compatible and wherein
the published prices and the discounted prices in the compatible format are
displayed simultaneously on the display screen.

28. A method as set forth in claim 26, including the steps of:
providing prices for the transaction at the processing station from at least one
second source offering published prices for the second source, the second source being different
from the first source,
5 providing for the transmission of the published prices from the at least one second
source to the processing station through the internet, and
displaying the published prices from the at least one second source on the display
screen simultaneously with the display of the published prices and the discounted prices from the
first sources.

29. A method as set forth in claim 28 wherein
the published prices from the at least one second source is provided with a
protocol different from one of the first and second protocols and wherein
the protocol from the at least one second sources is made compatible with the
5 compatible first and second protocols and wherein
the published prices and discount prices from the first sources and the published
price from the at least one second source, in the compatible protocol, are displayed
simultaneously on the display screen.

30. A method as set forth in claim 29 wherein
the published prices from the first sources in the compatible format are displayed
on a first portion of the display screen and wherein
the discounted prices from the first sources, and the published prices from the at
5 least one second source, are displayed in the compatible format on a second portion of the
display screen.

32. A method as set forth in claim 31, including the steps of:

providing a printer at the legacy server, and

printing a ticket in the printer at the legacy server a ticket providing for the performance of the selected one of the legacy and individual transactions as the particular transaction.

33. A method as set forth in claim 31 wherein

the legacy transactions have a first protocol and wherein

the individual transactions have at least a second protocol different from the first

protocol and wherein


the database at the processing station provides a protocol compatible with the first protocol and the at least second protocol and processes the legacy transactions and the individual transactions in the compatible protocol.

34. A method as set forth in claim 31 wherein

the indications of legacy transactions are provided to the database at the processing station through a wide area network and wherein

the indications of the individual transactions are provided through the Internet to the database at the processing station.

35. A method as set forth in claim 31 wherein
the transactions are airline flights on a particular date between a particular
originating location and a particular destination and wherein
the legacy transactions are airline flights serviced by a global distribution system
5 including Sabre, Galileo, Amadeus and Worldspan and provided by a number of the major
airlines and wherein
the individual transactions are airline flights provided by a number of airlines
other than those serviced by the global distribution system.

 36. A method as set forth in claim 35 wherein
the legacy transactions have a first protocol and wherein
the individual transactions have at least a second protocol different from the first
protocol and wherein
the database at the processing station provides a protocol compatible with the first
protocol and the at least second protocol and processes the legacy transactions and the individual
15 transactions in the compatible protocol and wherein
the indications of the legacy transactions are provided to the database at the
processing station through a wide area network and wherein
the indications of the individual transactions are provided through the Internet to
the database at the processing station and wherein

the transactions are airline flights on a particular date between a particular
originating location and a particular destination and wherein

the legacy transactions are airline flights serviced by a global distribution system,
including Sabre, Galileo, Amadeus and Worldspan and provided by a number of the major
5 airlines and wherein

A4 the individual transactions are airline flights provided by a number of airlines
other than those serviced by the global distribution system.

37. A method as set forth in claim 31, including the steps of:

providing an accounting application at the legacy server, and

10 operating the accounting application at the legacy server to provide an accounting
record of the selected one of the legacy and individual transactions as the particular transaction
and to provide an accounting record of the price of the selected one of the transactions.

A5 39. A method as set forth in claim 38 wherein

the legacy transactions and the price of performing the legacy transactions are
transmitted to the processing station through a wide area network and wherein

5 the individual transactions and the price of performing the individual transactions
are transmitted to the processing station through the internet.

40. A method as set forth in claim 38 wherein
the legacy transactions are provided in a first protocol and wherein
the individual transactions are provided in a second protocol and wherein
the first and second protocols are made compatible at the processing station.


41. A method as set forth in claim 38 wherein
the legacy transactions and the price for performing the legacy transactions are
displayed in a first portion of a display screen at the processing station and wherein
the individual transactions and the prices for performing the individual
transactions are displayed in a second portion of the display screen at the processing station.

42. A method as set forth in claim 39 wherein
the legacy transactions are provided in a first protocol and wherein
the individual transactions are provided in a second protocol and wherein
the first and second protocols are made compatible at the processing station and

5 wherein

the legacy transactions and the price for performing the legacy transactions are
displayed in a first portion of a display screen at the processing station and wherein
the individual transactions and the prices for performing the individual
transactions are displayed in a second portion of the display screen at the processing station.

44. In a method as set forth in claim 43 wherein
the indications of the legacy transactions are in a first protocol and the indications
of the individual transactions are in a second protocol,
the steps of:
5 making the first and second protocols compatible with each other, and
selecting in the compatible protocol one of the legacy transactions and the
individual transactions as the particular transaction.



45. In a method as set forth in claim 43, the steps of:
receiving the indications of the legacy transactions through a wide area network at
the database of the processing station, and
receiving the indications of the individual transactions through the internet at the
5 database of the processing station.

46. In a method as set forth in claim 43 wherein
the legacy indications and the individual indications are for an airplane flight on a
particular date between a particular originating location and a particular destination and wherein
the legacy indications are provided by a global distribution system representing
10 several of the primary airlines and wherein
the individual indications are provided by other airlines than the primary airlines.

47. In a method as set forth in claim 43 wherein

the legacy indications and the individual indications are for an airplane flight on a particular date between a particular originating location and a particular destination and wherein

the indications of the legacy flights are provided by a global distribution system representing several of the primary airlines and the legacy indications are provided for airline flights at established and published prices and wherein

the individual indications are provided by the airlines in the global distribution system for the airline flights at prices discounted from the established and published prices.

48. In a method as set forth in claim 43 wherein

the legacy indications and the individual indications are for an airplane flight on a particular date between a particular originating location and a particular destination and wherein

the indications of the legacy flights are provided by a global distribution system representing several of the primary airlines and the legacy indications are provided for airline flights at established and published prices and wherein

the individual indications are provided by consolidators who purchase blocks of airline tickets at prices discounted from the established and published prices and offer these tickets to the public at prices which are between the established and published prices and the discounted prices.

49. In a method as set forth in claim 44, including the steps of:

receiving the indications of the legacy transactions through a wide area network at
the database of the processing station,

receiving the indications of the individual transactions through the internet at the

15 database of the processing station wherein

the legacy indications and the individual indications are for an airplane flight on a
particular date between a particular originating location and a particular destination and wherein

the legacy indications are provided by a global distribution system representing
several of the primary airlines and wherein

the individual indications are provided by other airlines than the primary airlines.

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50. In a method as set forth in claim 44, including the steps of:

receiving the indications of the legacy transactions through a wide area network at
the database of the processing station,

receiving the indications of the individual transactions through the internet at the

5 database of the processing station wherein

the legacy indications and the individual indications are for an airplane flight on a
particular date between a particular originating location and a particular destination and wherein

the indications of the legacy flights are provided by a global distribution system
representing several of the primary airlines and the legacy indications are provided for airline

10 flights at established and published prices and wherein

the individual indications are provided by the airlines in the global distribution system for the airline flights at prices discounted from the established and published prices.

51. In a method as set forth in claim 44, including the steps of:

receiving the indications of the legacy transactions through a wide area network at the database of the processing station,

receiving the indications of the individual transactions through the Internet at the database of the processing station wherein

the legacy indications and the individual indications are for an airplane flight on a particular date between a particular originating location and a particular destination and wherein

the indications of the legacy flights are provided by a global distribution system representing several of the primary airlines and the legacy indications are provided for airline

10 flights at established and published prices and wherein

the individual indications are provided by consolidators who purchase blocks of airline tickets at prices discounted from the established and published prices and offer these tickets to the public at prices which are between the established and published prices and the discounted prices.

53. In a method as set forth in claim 52 wherein
some of the transactions in the plurality are legacy transactions provided through a
wide area network to the gateway at the processing station and others of the transactions in the
plurality are provided to the gateway in the processing station through the internet.

54. In a method as set forth in claim 52 wherein
the indication of one of the transactions in the plurality is provided to the printer
at the processing station through a local area network when the printer at the processing center is
selected by the database and wherein
the indication of the specific one of the transactions in the printer as the
transaction is provided at the premises of the issuer through the local area network, a gateway at
the processing station and a wide area network when the printer at the premises of the issuer is
selected by the database.

55. A method as set forth in claim 52 wherein
the transactions in the plurality are airline flights on a particular day between a
particular originating location and a particular destination and wherein

5 some of the airline flights in the plurality are provided by a legacy server which represents some of the primary airlines and which quotes established and published prices and wherein others of the airline flights in the plurality are provided by airlines other than the primary airlines in the legacy server or are provided by the primary airlines offering prices discounted from the established and published prices.

56. In a method as set forth in claim 53 wherein

the indication of one of the transactions in the plurality is provided to the printer at the processing station as the particular transaction through a local area network when the printer at the processing center is selected by the database and wherein

the indication of the specific one of the transactions in the printer at the specific one of the transactions is provided at the premises of the issuer through the local area network, a gateway at the processing station and a wide area network when the printer at the premises of the issuer is selected by the database and wherein


10 the transactions in the plurality are airline flights on a particular day between a particular originating location and a particular destination and wherein

some of the airline flights in the plurality are provided by a legacy server representing some of the primary airlines and which quote established and published prices and wherein others of the airline flights in the plurality are provided by airlines other than the primary airlines in the legacy server or are provided by the primary airlines offering prices discounted
15 from the established and published prices.

57. An article of manufacture comprising:

at least one computer readable medium having computer readable program code

embodied jointly or severally thereon for causing a plurality of computers to perform the acts of:

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- a. providing a human interface;
 - b. inputting via the human interface, a request for details of travel services, the request being in a format intelligible to a global distribution system (GDS);
 - c. sending a first copy of the request to the GDS;
 - d. sending, through Internet, a second copy of the request to a server computer;
 - 10 e. receiving, from the GDS, a first details of travel services;
 - f. receiving, via Internet, from the server computer, a second details of travel services, the second details of travel services having been received by the server computer in response to at least one web response received by the server computer in response to a web request, from the server computer, to

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a web site, wherein the web request is composed responsive to a data content of the request for services;
and

- g. outputting, via the human interface, a representation of the first and the second details of travel services.

58. A computer system for presenting travel industry services comprising:

a client computer;

and

a server computer communicating with the client computer using Internet;

wherein the server computer and the client computer cooperatively exchange data and execute instructions for:

- a. providing a human interface;
- b. inputting via the human interface, a request for details of travel services, the request being in a format intelligible to a global distribution system (GDS);
- c. sending a first copy of the request to the GDS;
- d. sending, through Internet, a second copy of the request to a server computer;

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- e. receiving, from the GDS, a first details of travel services;
- f. receiving, via Internet, from the server computer, a second details of travel services, the second details of travels services having been received by the server computer in response to at least one web response received by the server computer in response to a web request, from the server computer, to a web site, wherein the web request is composed responsive to a data content of the request for services; and
- g. outputting, via the human interface, a representation of the first and the second details of travel services.

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